

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01123 311027Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-13 MCT-01 TRSE-00 /101 W
-----020108 010119Z /70
R 310829Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6257
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1123

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, SHUM, IZ, IR
SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF AYATOLLA AL-KHOMEINI; IRAQI-IRANIAN
RELATIONS

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1042 (B) TEHRAN A-60

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SADRIEH TELLS US THAT IRAQI GOVERNMENT IS PROBABLY NOT FULLY AWARE OF EXTENT TO WHICH AYATOLLA AL-KHOMEINI IS INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES AIMED AGAINST THE SHAH. IN ANY EVENT, HE BELIEVES THAT IRAQI REGIME IS NOT ENCOURAGING AL-KHOMEINI TO ENTER INTO POLITICAL AGITATION.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH USINT OFFICER, SADRIEH CONFIRMED THAT AL-KHOMEINI IS INVOLVED IN PRODUCING ANTI-SHAH PROPAGANDA AND IN FINANCING OF DISSIDENT ELEMENTS INSIDE IRAN. SADRIEH BELIEVES THAT AL-KHOMEINI USES COURIERS TRAVELING TO AND FROM EUROPE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANTI-SHAH GROUPS BASED THERE WHO IN TURN INFILTRATE FUNDS AND PROPAGANDA INTO IRAN. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT AL-KHOMEINI IS ABLE TO USE IRAN-IRAQ PILGRIM TRAFFIC FOR HIS PURPOSES.

3. SADRIEH DESCRIBED AL-KHOMEINI AS A FAIRLY UNSOPHISTICATED INDIVIDUAL WHO IS MANIPULATED BY A RADICAL ENTOURAGE. HE ALSO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01123 311027Z

DENIGRATED EXTENT OF HIS RELIGIOUS FOLLOWING, DESCRIBING ONE AYATOLLA AL-KHUWEIR (PHONETIC) AS BEING A MORE IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS PERSONAGE AMONG NAJAF-BASED IRANIAN EXPATRIATES. NONETHELESS, HE BELIEVES THAT MEMBERS OF DISPOSSESSED IRANIAN FEUDAL CLASS CONTRIBUTE HEAVILY TO AL-KHOMEINI.

4. ON IRAQI-IRANIAN RELATIONS, SADRIEH SAID HE WAS NOT

DISSATISFIED WITH RECENT SPEECH OF SADDAM HUSSEIN (REF A) IN WHICH HE WARNED OF THREAT TO ARAB CHARACTER OF GULF FROM NON-ARAB IMMIGRANTS. HE SAID THAT IRAN WOULD BE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO SEE IRANIAN NATIONALS RETURN AND THAT IMPROVED ECONOMIC SITUATION IN IRAN HAD STOPPED FLOW OF IRANIAN WORKERS TO GULF STATES. HE ALSO APPRECIATE HUSSEIN'S REFERENCE TO IRAN'S POLICY ON GULF SECURITY, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. SADRIEH EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ANTI-IRANIAN SLOGANS AND TERMINOLOGY WERE GRADUALLY DISAPPEARING FROM IRAQI USEAGE.

5. AMBASSADOR SADRIEH NOTED CURRENT TENSIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND SOVIET UNION. WHILE UNSURE OF HOW DEEP THEY WERE, HE SEEMED SATISFIED WITH EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION. HE WAS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY IRAQI EFFORTS TO DIVERSIFY THEIR ARMS INVENTORY BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WOULD AT BEST BE A VERY SLOW PROCESS.

6. COMMENT: SADRIEH IS A VERY SAVVY PROFESSIONAL WHO ALSO WORKED ON IRAQI AFFAIRS BEFORE HIS CURRENT ASSIGNMENT. ON PAST OCCASIONS, HE HAS BEEN LESS SANGUINE ABOUT IRAQI POLICIES. REGARDING AYATOLLA AL-KHOMEINI, HE MAY HAVE BEEN INTENTIONALLY MISLEADING IN MINIMIZING HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN. WHILE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT IRAQI REGIME ENCOURAGES AL-KHOMEINI'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, AUTHORITIES HAVE APPARENTLY TAKEN NO STEPS TO REIN HIM IN. THIS WOULD REFLECT IRAQ'S DESIRE TO KEEP THE PEACE WITH ITS OWN SHIA POPULATION BUT MIGHT ALSO BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01123 311027Z

HEAVYHANDED IRAQI WAY OF REMINDING IRAN THAT IT HAS CARDS TO PLAY IF DETENTE WERE TO BREAK DOWN.
PECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REPORTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780228-0413
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978055/aaaaadvz.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 41fab39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 1042, 78 TEHRAN A-60
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2666367
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTIVITIES OF AYATOLLA AL-KHOMEINI; IRAQI-IRANIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, SHUM, IZ, IR, (AL-KHOMEINI, AYATOLLA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/41fab39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014